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Area man seeks help, becomes lost, suffers hypothermia, following traffic crash

By Paul Garrod
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PORTER TWP. – A 64-year-old Lawton man, involved in a traffic crash Friday night, Jan. 3, in Porter Township, left the scene of the crash on foot, sought out help, then became lost while walking in cold temperatures, suffering signs of hypothermia before he was eventually fond by au-thorities, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott said Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies were dis-patched at approximately 8:30 p.m. to the 74000 block of 22nd Street in Porter Township for a re-port of a traffic crash. Arriving at the scene, they found a vehicle that had crashed into a tree and was unoccupied. The vehicle was cold, and snow was collecting on it.

Sheriff Abbott said during the investigation, a nearby resident called and reported a male subject had been at their residence advising that he had car trouble and was cold. The subject said that he was trying to get to a friend's house and left walking before deputies arrived. Deputies checked the area and found footprints in the snow leading off the roadway and began following them. They went through a field, a wooded area and then into the edge of a swamp. Deputies eventually located the subject, a 64-year-old Lawton man, who was unresponsive and lying on the ground under some brush.

Upon making physical contact with him deputies were able to get him to respond and be-come more coherent. Sheriff Abbott said the subject's clothing was wet and starting to freeze and he advised that he could not feel his legs. The man told deputies that he had crashed at least two hours prior and became lost while walking. He told them that he eventually became exhausted and lay down where they found him. He was very disoriented and showed obvious signs of hypo-thermia, according to Sheriff Abbott.

Deputies assisted the subject back to the road where he was turned over to EMS for treatment. Sheriff Abbott said the weather at the time was around 20 degrees, with occasional heavy snow and high winds. Sheriff Abbott said if deputies had not located the footprints and fol-lowed them, it is likely that the subject would have succumbed to hypothermia in the edge of the swamp.

Sheriff Abbott reminds the public to make sure they have basic emergency supplies in their vehicle if they are involved in a motor vehicle crash or have car trouble in the winter. These items should include things like a blanket or extra coat, winter boots, water, food or snacks and a flashlight.

Almena Twp house fire contained by multiple departments

On Dec. 30, shortly before noon, the Paw Paw Fire Department responded to a structure fire in Almena Township on County Road 653. Paw Paw Fire Chief Kyle Richardson said the fire began in the attached garage, then quickly began to spread into the home. Richardson said firefighters were able to contain the fire to the garage and attic. Paw Paw firefighters were assisted by Lawton and Mattawan fire departments, Paw Paw Quick Response Team and Van Buren Emergency Medical Services. Firefighters remained at the scene for approximately two hours. The cause of the fire is undetermined, according to Richardson.

House fire photo Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Garage fire photo courtesy/Paw Paw Fire Department

Area village and cities have experienced devastating fires only to rise again

By Paul Garrod
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Several towns in The Courier-Leader coverage area have experienced downtown fires of one type or another during the past nearly 170 years. The fires destroyed or badly damaged businesses, but following the devastation, the communities rallied, and buildings were constructed, replacing badly damaged or burned-out shells of previous stores.

On the night of Dec. 31, 1859, the Village of Lawrence experienced a destructive fire, which swept the west side of Paw Paw Street of all its stores and laid nearly the entire business portion of the town in ashes, according to historical accounts published about the fire. The stores burned were two belonging to Chadwick & Bro., and sites of Sylvanus Rowe, J.B. Potter, George Koon, J.L. Phillips, and L. Moulton. It was reported that the aggregate loss was about $12,500. "Measures were, however, speedily taken for the rebuilding of the structures, although the business interests of the village received a severe blow through the disaster, which now would be considered serious, and then was a great public calamity," it was reported.

The Village of Paw Paw also did not escape the ravages of a downtown fire, noting that four different fires were experienced over a period of approximately 30 years.

According to a history of the Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Department, the "long and tragic series of events which set the stage of action to form a fire department was a very real part of the early history of Paw Paw." It further stated, "Beginning with the destruction by fire of a sawmill on the river at the west end of Main Street in 1839, the newly platted village was to experience "the ordeal of uncontrolled fire" often during the next 30 years.

Numerous individual residential and commercial fires occurred, and on three occasions large sections of the business district, between Gremps and Niles streets were destroyed. In 1859, the Exchange Hotel, now the site of the Dyckman restaurant, was destroyed. "A bucket brigade composed mostly of women and children, drew water from the river in two small cisterns for the men who fought the blaze in vain," it was reported.

It was reported at the next town meeting that the need for an organized fire department and equipment was discussed. The only action taken was a request that all local businesses "shall provide and keep a number of pails available and suitable for fire and on the alarm of fire, residents were requested to hasten to the scene and present themselves for services as needed."

The year 1866 saw both sides of Main Street, west of Kalamazoo Street, partially destroyed. One business that was destroyed was the Smith Clothing Store. In the same year, two other businesses were destroyed in the current location of the Warner Supply Do it Center.

Two years later, in the spring of 1868, the north side of Main Street between the Dyckman Hotel and the Post Office was swept by a fire that lasted for two days. The topic of an organized fire department was once again discussed by village trustees. It was reported that a special meeting was set for Sept. 6, 1868, to discuss the matter of a fire department. At this meeting, a board was appointed to draft an ordinance for the organization of a fire company and to investigate the cost and availability of fire equipment.

On Sept. 28, 1868, 22 persons were appointed as firemen with the Paw Paw Fire Company. The next night the newly appointed firemen met and organized the Paw Paw Fire Company No.1. The following members, elected by members, served as the first officers of the fire company:

Chief Engineer of Dept. – W.L. Eggleston, 1st Asst. Chief of Dept. – T.W. Melchor, Foreman of Fire Company – James M. Servoss, 1st Asst Foreman of Fire Company – John Rousseau, 2nd Asst. Foreman of Fire Company – S.S. Hatt, 1st Pipesman – B.K. Tuttle, 2nd Pipesman – Wm. Hodemaker, and Secretary – O.D. Martin.

Seven area fire departments battled the downtown Hartford fire of Feb. 22, 1968.

An undated early photo of members of the Paw Paw Fire Department.

A month later, on Oct. 28, the board of trustees gave approval to purchase the first fire apparatus. A hand drawn engine was $1,050, a hand drawn hose cart was $200 and 306 feet of hose for $369, were purchased. It was reported that the engine was operated at hand lever and was supplied with water by dumping water into a small tank using either buckets or a suction hose.

On June 13, 1888, fire again erupted, destroying seven buildings, including 11 businesses and two lodges in the village.

Late Friday, April 6, 2012, the City of Gobles saw a fire that swept through century-plus buildings that include the businesses of Jan's Trailside Café, Jan's Oasis and C.C.C. Bait & Tackle. The buildings were in the 200 block of South State Street (M-40).

Murawski's Tavern sustained water and smoke damage, but no fire damage.

A total of six area fire departments responded to the downtown Gobles blaze.

The City of Hartford saw a fire destroying a large portion of the downtown on Thursday, Feb. 22, 1968.

It was reported that fire departments from seven communities fought the blaze for four hours, battling high winds and freezing temperatures.

Michigan Maritime Museum kicks off 2025 with Coast Guard SPARS lecture

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, the Michigan Maritime Museum will kick off their new Lecture Series with Tri-Cities Historical Museum Assistant Curator Joshua Simon presenting Best Dressed Women in the World Today: A Style Examination of the United States Coast Guard's SPARS. Simon will examine how consumerism, especially associated with dress, and gender were integral components of the SPARS' experience as enlisted service members, sometimes in contradictory ways.

The United States Coast Guard initiated the SPARS program during World War II putting women recruits under military direction in this reserve corp. More than 10,000 women volunteered for service between 1942 and 1946. "The SPARS are an integral part of United States maritime history. Their groundbreaking service significantly expanded women's roles in the Coast Guard. By studying the function of gender and dress, we can better understand the experiences of women enlisted in the SPARS," said Simon. The presentation will also showcase Tri-Cities Historical Museum's newest exhibit, Ship Shape Sisters: The Women of the Coast Guard SPARS. The stories of some specific SPARS from Michigan and beyond will be highlighted as well in this engaging lecture.

Simon is the Assistant Curator of Exhibits at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven, MI. He also manages the museum's collection and is an independent researcher. His research has examined a variety of subjects related to fashion history, including a revival of the Gibson Girl aesthetic in the mid-twentieth century, the style of former First Lady Betty Ford, and sartorial aspects of depictions of Saint Sebastian.

This lecture is the first of the newest lecture series and programs in the Museum's 2025 theme Whispers Across the Water that will showcase minority contributions to Great Lakes maritime history and heritage.

THE BEST DRESSED WOMEN IN THE WORLD TODAY:
A STYLE EXAMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD'S SPARS
with Joshua D. Simon, Assistant Curator of Exhibits, Tri-Cities Historical Museum
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH
6:30-7:30 PM
MICHIGAN MARITIME MUSEUM
Lecture Series proudly sponsored by the Nielsen-Wells Grant Fund and Mike & Susan Smith

This lecture series is made possible thanks to the Nielsen-Wells Grant Fund and Mike and Susan Smith. Part I of this Lectures Series will occur once a month through April and begin at 6:30 p.m. in the museum's R.B. Annis Gallery & Exhibit Hall. Tickets are free for museum members and $10 for non-members. For more information about the museum's events, visit: https://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org/events/.

Two Juvenile runaways return home safely

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response took a juvenile runaway complaint in Arlington Township. Two juveniles ran away from a residence and were later located in Hartford City. "The juveniles were returned home," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a self-inflicted gunshot wound complaint in Arlington Township. "Deputies found that the victim/gun owner had shot himself (according to him) after dropping a handgun and it went off. The bullet struck the victim in the upper rear portion of the leg. The victim received first aid from deputies on scene, including the application of a tourniquet prior to being transported to a hospital," said Sheriff Abbott. The gun was seized and is being sent to the MSP Crime Lab for analysis and identification since the serial numbers were altered/ground off, according to Sheriff Abbott. After the case is complete, it'll be reviewed by the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office.

Uniform Response handled a welfare check/PPO violation complaint in Bangor Township. Once on scene, the suspect barricaded himself in a bedroom with the protected party on the PPO. The suspect refused to comply with commands, and he charged deputies with a bat. After going back into the bedroom, exited again with two knives and threw one at the deputies. "Deputies were able to talk him out and put him into custody with no one getting hurt," said Sheriff Abbott. The suspect now faces numerous felony charges.

Uniform Response handled a break-in/larceny/UDAA at a storage facility in Bloomingdale Township. Deputies searched the area and were able to locate the stolen Jeep. The driver fled from deputies for about 20 minutes prior to going off road and getting stuck. "The suspect, from Kalamazoo, fled on foot but was quickly located hiding in a barn by our K-9 Unit and deputies on scene," said Sheriff Abbott. He added, "It should be noted that he was in possession of methamphetamine at the time of the arrest." Deputies obtained a search warrant for the residence the Jeep fled from and located numerous stolen items from the storage facility. Deputies also located a stolen camper out of Kalamazoo at the residence. Deputies arrested an additional suspect at the residence for the break-in at the storage facility. Others were interviewed and charges may be coming on them after review from the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office.

"We had our annual fire inspection at the main office/jail. We were up to code with everything and passed once again after all the testing and inspections were done," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Detectives were doing follow-up in Lawrence Township and recovered a bunch of stolen items," said Sheriff Abbott. Once the investigation is complete, it'll be sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Uniform Response handled a PIA (personal injury accident) in Bangor Township in which the vehicle crashed into a residence. "The homeowner was not hurt, but the driver of the vehicle was. The driver, out of Battle Creek, was transported to the hospital to be treated," said Sheriff Abbott. Once the blood results come back from the lab, the report will be sent over to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review, according to Sheriff Abbott.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Speakers Series welcomes new president, board members; announces 2025 program highlights

The South Haven Speakers Series is pleased to announce the appointment of Elaine Stephens as its new president. Stephens succeeds Mark Odland, a founding member of the Series, who served as president for ten years and is retiring from the board. The series also bids farewell to Carole Hodgman, another retiring founding member.

"Mark and Carole have helped guide the SHSS since its founding. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for everything they have done for the community," Stephens said.

Stephens, a founding member of the Speakers Series, has a Ph.D. in education and began her career as a first-grade teacher and retired as a college professor in teacher education.

"We have dynamic board of directors dedicated to enriching our community with outstanding speakers on significant issues" she said while naming three new members, all who are South Haven residents:

- **Amy Fracker,** Executive Director of the South Haven Mitten Museum, brings over 30-years in nonprofit leadership to the board. She has extensive expertise with several Michigan organizations in fundraising, program development, organizational change, and administration. Her priority is access to high-quality art experiences for all community members.

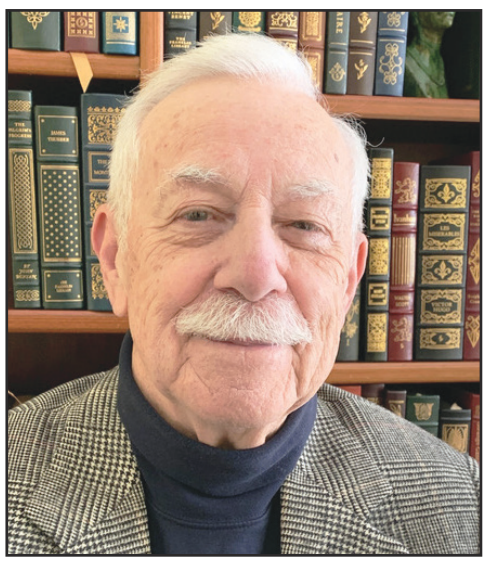
- **Michael McCarthy**, a national best-selling author, has been featured in historical documentaries and podcasts and is author of a new book, *Behold: Poems*. He is best known in South Haven for his book, *Ashes Under the Water: The SS Eastland and the Shipwreck that Shook America*. Previously he wrote for The Wall Street Journal for more than two decades.

- **James Windell**, a writer, editor, and reporter, has published 40 books on parenting, child psychology, grief and loss, and criminal justice. He was a Family Court psychologist and taught criminal justice classes for 25 years. He has been editor of *The Michigan Psychologist* for almost 20 years and is currently a reporter for *The South Haven Beacon.*

Stephens also announced the themes for the 2025 lineup of presentations as the Series enters its 11th year.

Amy Fracker

Michael McCarthy



James Windell

- **Nuclear Power...the risks and rewards**
- **Immigration…the search for compassionate solutions.**
- **Inflation and National Debt…. the future of the U.S. economy**.
- **Globalism vs. Isolationism• Naming rights, gambling, high paid college players … the new face of college sports**

The dates and speakers are to be announced.
Speakers' Series programs are held on the South Haven Campus of Lake Michigan College. There is a 6:30 p.m. wine and cheese reception, followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. Admission is $10, and students attend free of charge.

The South Haven Speakers Series is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Approximately three-quarters of the Series budget comes from generous donors. Further information can be found at the Series website - southhavenspeakersseries.org.

Funeral home closes Gobles chapel

D.L. Miller Funeral Home, a family-owned establishment serving the community for over 50 years, announces the permanent closure of its Gobles Chapel, effective January 1, 2025. This decision comes after careful consideration and reflects the changing needs of the community and modern changes in funeral amenities over recent years.

In a message to the community, owner Ryan Oliver, along with his wife Danielle, and the Vice President Floyd Decker, emphasized the importance of adapting to the current trends. "We are committed to finding ways to sustain our business while continuing to provide value to the families we serve," said Oliver. The closing of the Gobles Chapel will not affect the availability of services for the families in Gobles and surrounding areas. The funeral home will continue to offer traditional visitations, memorial celebrations, and other services at various locations, including area churches and our recently updated Bloomingdale Chapel.

The Bloomingdale office has already been serving as the primary area business location for arrangements and preneed planning for decades. This change is expected to enhance operational efficiency while maintaining the level of care and support the community has come to expect. "We believe restructuring will still allow us to compassionately serve our families while reducing unnecessary overhead costs," Oliver added.

Acknowledging the contributions of the McCoy Family, who were caretakers of the Gobles Chapel for over 50 years, Oliver expressed deep gratitude for their commitment to the community. "Their dedication has been invaluable, and we wish them all the best in their retirement," he stated.

D.L. Miller Funeral Home has been a trusted partner for families in Gobles, Bloomingdale, Bangor, and nearby communities for more than half a century. As a privately-owned business, the team takes pride in supporting families during their most difficult times. The focus remains on providing reliable and quality care, ensuring that families feel supported throughout the funeral, burial, and/or cremation process.

Bangor police officer placed on administrative leave

BANGOR - On Jan. 2, City of Bangor Chief of Police Justin Weber released a statement on a recent incident. It stated, "The Bangor Police Department is aware of a situation involving a video depicting the solicitation of a minor and the information shared by the reporting organization. The Bangor Police Department has been in contact with the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office. The incident is being fully investigated. An internal personnel investigation is also being conducted. The officer involved in the incident has been placed on administrative leave pending the investigation. A volunteer Reserve Auxiliary Officer is no longer a member of the Bangor Police Department's Reserve Officer Program. As this remains an open investigation, no further information will be release at this time."

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Scott Club features a variety of programs for Spring 2025

By James Windell

The South Haven Scott Club, an all-volunteer organization that presents bimonthly arts and cultural programs, has announced its schedule of programs for the first part of 2025.

Scott Club programs, which are both educational and entertaining, are presented by au-thors, artists, musicians, other organizations and experts in a variety of fields.

"The programs at Scott Club feature topics that keep with our mission of maintaining a historically significant South Haven landmark as a center for the advancement of culture, the arts, education and fellowship," says Anna Krajecki, Scott Club Program Chairperson.

The first program for 2025 takes place on January 21, 2025 and is entitled "The Life and Rhymes of Poet Ben King." Bob Myers, Director of History Programing at the Historical Society of Michigan, will examine the life and the poetry of Benjamin Franklin King, Jr., who resided in St. Joseph, Michigan, but gained a national audience through his poetry. This is a Zoom only pro-gram.

On February 4, 2025, the Black History Leadership Society will present a program called "We Have Come This Far by Faith – Celebrating African American Women." This program helps kick off Black History Month in South Haven.

The second February program will take place on February 18 and feature Dr. Evan Kutz-ler, Associate Professor of History at Western Michigan University, speaking on the topic "Fram-ing Rosa Lee Ingram: A Cold War Era Murder Trial and Civil Rights Odyssey."

In March, 2025, two programs will highlight the Scott Club calendar. The first, on March 4, will bring Angela LaBarca, Community Relations, Corewell Health Hospice and Palliative Care to speak on "The Truth About Hospice." And on March 18, Sharon Carlson, the President of the Kalamazoo Ladies' Library Association, will talk about the "History of the Ladies' Library Association of Michigan."

On April 1, 2025, Jo Ann Flowers will present a program on "Your Identity – Staying Connected and Protected." This talk will examine identity theft and how you can protect your-self. Then, on April 15, Timothy Horan, a South Haven native and former South Haven Mayor will share his poetry which is designed to assist humanity in its integral role in the functioning of the sacred web of life and the importance of becoming engaged.

The final two programs for the Winter/Spring series will highlight South Haven history students discussing rights and responsibilities in history on May 6. And on May 20, true-crime author Tobin T. Buhk will talk about the "Dark Corners of Michigan History."

According to Krajecki, "Each program attracts interest from our Scott Club members and the community. We have a variety of presenters that do a great job and, I have to say, that every program is exciting and fascinating! The fact that Scott Club can continue providing wonderful programs, at no charge, is invaluable to our community."

Krajecki adds that Scott Club offers programs all year round, on the first and third Tues-day of each month, with the exception of January, July, September and December. She says that all programs are free and open to everyone.

Programs are typically held in either the upstairs meeting room or ground level and fol-lowed by refreshments and fellowship on the ground level. All programs are also offered virtual-ly.

The Scott Club is located at 652 Phoenix Street, South Haven, and all programs begin at 1:00 pm. For a Zoom link for a program or more information about Scott Club, email info@scottclub.org

Blues artist Keith Scott to perform at New Holland Brewery

By James Windell

Keith Scott loves playing and singing the blues.

"The blues has the groove, the soul and the rhythm," he says. "Everybody loves the blues."

Keith Scott, who has been a fixture on the blues circuit in Chicago for several decades, will be performing in South Haven at New Holland Brewing on Friday, January 10, 2025.

Playing and singing the blues since he was in college, Scott says his influences include the legendary Muddy Waters and Blues Hall of Fame singer Bo Diddley, as well as many of the Chicago blues artists he came to know.

Born in White Plains, New York, Scott got his first guitar when he was 14. In a recent in-terview from his New Buffalo, Michigan home, he says he took lots of guitar lessons both in White Plains and later on when he was at the University of Florida. But he says that his most im-portant lessons came from playing and jamming with the likes of Bo Diddley, Jimmy Dawkins, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells and Hip Linkchain.

"They taught me how to put the foundation together for music, instead of concentrating on soloing and instead of being flashy," he explains. "I learned how to listen and how to play behind musicians. They taught me how to back others up and make them sound good."

Those lessons came after he and a friend left the University of Florida to settle in Chicago and form a blues band. That led to Scott getting to know and play with all of the most outstanding blues musicians in Chicago. Along the way, he's played at every top blues club in Chicago. For more than 28 years he's been playing and singing regularly at the iconic House of Blues in downtown Chicago.

He played his first gig in Michigan in 1999 when he performed at Tello's when that restaurant had a venue outside of the downtown area. "It went over really well, and they had me come back several times," Scott recalls. "But I really liked Michigan and decided I would play up and down the west coast of the state."

Scott calls his blues style "heavy blues." "What that means," he says, "is blues with an edge." He performs a range of blues classics as well as songs he wrote. He comments that the au-dience in South Haven has been responsive to his music. "I have worked for New Holland Distillery in Kalamazoo, but when I first played at New Holland in South Haven it was cool the way people were dancing and clapping to the music."

In February, Scott will release his 10th CD which is called "Back to State Street."

Scott will sing the blues and play his guitar at New Holland Brewing, 253 Center Street, South Haven, on Friday, January 10, 2025 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

For more information about New Holland Brewing, visit their website at newhollandbrew.com. For more information about Keith Scott, see his website at www.keithscottblues.com

Music coming up at Harbor Light Brewery

By James Windell

Harbor Light Brewery will welcome in the new year with a Saturday night lineup of mu-sic.

On Saturday, January 11, 2025 Rory McCallan, a Harbor Light favorite, will be back playing guitar and singing.

According to Barb Steffler, who books the musical acts for Harbor Light Brewery, McCallan is a West Michigan singer-songwriter and cover artist who plays a dynamic mix of rock, pop, and roots music.

Kevin McDaniels, a multi-talented guitarist, features Americana music and classic oldies on January 18. Following McDaniel on January 25 will be Lynn and the Moonshine Runners, a guitar and vocal duo who play country and bluegrass-inspired music.

For the South Haven Ice Breaker winter festival, popular Celtic singer and guitarist Brian McClure will perform on February 1. The remainder of February will be rounded out by Rory McCallan on February 8, Lynn and the Moonshine Runners on February 15 and Kevin McDaniel on February 22.

"I try to book musicians who have a following and when you come in you can enjoy your brew and still be able to have conversations with your friends," says Steffler. "I look for musi-cians who can create a relaxed atmosphere so people can both the music and the brews."

All shows run from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at Harbor Light Brewery, 516 Phoenix, in downtown South Haven. For more information, visit the Harbor Light Brewery website at www.harborlightbrewing.com

Van Buren Conservation District tree sale now open

PAW PAW - The annual Van Buren Conservation District Tree Sale opened Jan. 1. "We are excited to once again provide you with quality, affordable seedlings while reforesting our community and supporting local conservation!" said a press release from VBCD.

The VBCD can provide the community with quality, affordable seedlings that otherwise could not be purchased locally. By buying in bulk and bringing choices to the public, the VBCD can save the community time and money, according to the press release.

The VBCD specially picks which seedlings to sell at the Tree Sale. "We choose quality seedlings that are native, climate hardy, and full of benefits for you and the environment," said the press release.

For free, species, habitat, and gardening specialists on staff can help area residents choose the right species for their needs.

Funds raised from the tree sale go to conservation education and efforts in the community. Libraries and schools also benefit from donated seedlings from VBCD.

VBCD provides a wide variety of tree and shrub seedlings to meet the needs of community residents. They include:

- Flowering and ornamental species
- Nut and fruit-producing species
- Species to block wind
- Shade tree species
- High value lumber species
- Species for erosion control

Area residents wishing to support local conservation, the VBCD also accepts financial donations.

To order, area residents can view the online shop and use the order form to select seedlings and other items.

Pre-orders may be submitted by March 31.

Order pick-up and day-of sale days are April 10, 11, and 12, at two locations. When submitting your pre-order, are residents may choose one of two locations – the VBCD office, 1035 E Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, or Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum, 903 S. Bailey Ave., South Haven. On any of these dates, area residents may pick up their pre-order and browse leftover stock to buy.

Orders are treated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Supplies are limited. Order fulfillment is based on nursery supply availability, which may be affected by winter weather and other growing conditions.

For more information, contact the VBCD's Outreach Coordinator Jacob Diljak by emailing Outreach@VanBurenCD.org or call/text (269) 633-9052.

The VBCD sold and donated 19,400 seedlings in 2024. "Together we 'built a forest' about the size of Three Mile Lake, Paw Paw!" the press release concluded.

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SPORTS

Gobles girls win two medals

Gobles girls wrestlers won medals on Friday at Three Rivers

By John Raffel
Corespondent

GOBLES — The Gobles girls varsity wrestling team headed to Three Rivers to compete in their girls only tournament on Friday, Jan. 3

"All five of our girls wrestled their hearts out and we walked away with two medals," coach Dan Morris said.

Alyssa Sparks with a gołd medal and Freedom Morris a bronze.

"Sparks stepped onto the mat ready to take care of business," Morris said. "This season her mat awareness has improved, as well as her confidence in herself to be an offensive wrestler as well as a defensive wrestler. Because of this and her excellent conditioning, two of her opponents didn't make it out of the first period.

"Freedom Morris wrestled up a weight class this week and came back strong after a tough last second loss in her first match of the day. She redirected her mindset and pinned both of her opponents to secure third place. Orion Ennis, Sydney Raseman, and Yethzi Garcia each came away with a win. With Yethzi getting her first win of the season. The girls continue to push for greatness as a team and will only continue to improve.

The Tigers travel to Lakeview High School on Friday for their next round of action.

Goals boy wrestlers have big week

Gobles wrestlers had another strong performance last week.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — After defeating Centreville in recent single dual action 70-12, Gobles boy wrestlers earned the team championship at the Horse Shoe Classic after defeating Sturgis 68-3, Comstock 78-6, Central Montcalm, 49-24, Lakeview 70-6, and Hopkins 48-28.

Tigers' wrestlers defeated Centreville as 12 of 14 Tigers won by fall or tech fll. They carried that dominance to the Horseshow Classic as 52 of 70 matches were won by fall or tech fall.

Danny Timms (106 pounds) led the team with five falls and one tech fall through the Centreville Duel and the Horseshoe Classic.

"Once again, it's hard for a coach to select stand-out performers when six of 14 starters went undefeated in a six-match week. Coach Erin Carlin said, referring to Danny Timms, Devin Doorlag, Finn Carlin, Mason Mansfield,

and Brody Marshall. Mason Mansfield continues his dominance in takedowns and has taken the team lead in tech falls.

"Brody Marshall keeps the team lead with pins. Aiden Dukes continues to set the pace on this high pace team and Danny Timms is shining as the team's youngest starter," Carlin said.

The Tigers take on Delton Kellogg and Allegan at Lawton in dual action on Jan. 8.

The Tigers are 2-0 in the SAC and 12-2 overall.

"These boys continue to show that mindset matters," Carlin said. "They are able to overcome the loss of top point scorers due to injury, they are able to rebound performances that do not meet the standard and they continue to set a pace that others cannot."

South Haven senior going to Aquinas

Elena Cavadas signs her letter to attend Aquinas College and be a swimmer

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Elena Cavadas compete in four events in the state meet for the South Haven swim team this past season.

She was 16th in the 200 medley relay 24th in the 200 freestyle relay and 17th in the 100 breaststroke.

It was her senior season and was her fourth year of varsity swimming.

Cavadas had a 1:11.63 for the 100 breaststroke at state.

The key for success in the 100 breaststroke "is flexibility helps a lot and having strength in that stroke; every little thing has to pretty much be spot on."

Cavadas said his was her best season.

"I think I improved as much as I wanted to compared to last year," she said. "I still have a lot to to work on. When I go on to college, I will have a lot of opportunities to improve."

This was her best team of the four, Cavadas said.

After she graduates Cavadas will compete collegiately at Aqiuinas. She made that decision in August.

"They approached me through a physical friend of ours," Cavadas said. "She will probably be swimming in the breaststroke. 'It involves so much more technique and focus. There's not one specific way to do breastroke. There's several different types of ways like how flexible you are or how you move in the water. It's so diverse. That's what I love about it."

Cavadas has been swimming since she was 6 years old

She also participates in club swimming.

Cavadas also played during the spring to keep in shape; She plans on focusing on her collegiate swimming during the spring/

"I'll miss my coach and all the friends I Ade and get a chance to eat swimming with my little sister who was also on the team this year. She's a freshman," Cavadas said.

Sydney Cavadas was also in the 200 freestyle relay team and placed 32nd at state in the 200 free.

Lawton sophomore shines with basketball team

Lawton's Bailey Allison gets set to shoot a free throw during recent action.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Bailey Allison is a key senior on the Lawton girls basketball team this season.

Shes played basketball her whole life and is on Lawton[s variety team her second season.

She's a sophomore and played extensively as a freshman last season. A major thrill last season was getting to the district finals he average eight rebounds and four assists per game. Allison averaged around 10 points per game.

"I feel like I met my expectations," she said. {Imhad a lot o people behind me and a lot of support."

Lawton graduated four seniors but had a payers from off the bench, Allison noted. She's one of two starters returning.

Lawton is off to a 4-1 start.

"I think we can all the way. I think we are a well-rounded team," Alison said. ""I think (her strengths) are pretty much all-around. But rebounding and asking are some of my main things."

Allison said her best shot is mainly cutbacks or fr0k the outside.

Tough teams on the schedule, Allison said, are Kalamazoo Christian and Saugatuck.

"The key is playing together and working together," Allison said.

Basketball is her only sport and she plays it year-round.

Gobles sophomore set for strong season

Carter Crippin is in his junior season for Gobles.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Carter Crippen is a talented sophomore basketball player for Gobles.

"Last year did not go too well," Crippin said. "We made a run for district but during the regular season it did not go very well.

"My first year, it went pretty well as a freshman. It was not too bad but it definitely could have been better. I led us (in scoring) a few games. I had 22 in one game. That was my high last year."

Crippin said scoring is a key role. He indicated a 3-pointer and a floater is his best shot. The key in being a good 3-pointer shooter, he said, is "catching the ball, getting to one of my spots and putting it up."

Gobles got off to a 4-2 start and defeated Hartford 54-49 on Monday.

"We should make a pretty good run this year," Crippin said. "We lost three guys from last year, a starter and two guys from off the bench."

His lone sport is basketball.

"I've played it for awhile since I was very young," he said.

Paw Paw wrestlers beat Berrien Springs

By John Raffel
Corespondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's wrestling team defeated Berrien Springs 63-16 in the Comstock team tournament on Jan. 4.

For Paw Paw:

Mason Voloenski (106) won by forfeit; Paw Paw (113) forfeited to Berrien Springs; Daniel Hadley (120) pinned Joan Cook in 1:00; Grant Krause (126) pinned Luis Escobar in 1:44; Ty Elmore (132) pinned Mark Smith in 43 seconds; Myles Hess (138) lost to Conor Baxter 21-9; Kolby Armco (144) pinned Caylen Tate in 3:33 and Zachary Klimp (150) pinned Nathaniel White in 47 seconds.

Alex Burgess (157) pinned Larson Kibler in 3:00; Jaydon Smith (165) and Gunner Gale (190) won by forfeits; Kameron Armco (175) decisioned Solomon Miller 12-9; Vincent Chavez (215) pinned Sage Sanchez in 1:01 and Jayden Edwards (285) pinned Aaron Quiles in 1:09.

Paw Paw lost to Edwardsburg 47-31.

Winners for Paw Paw were Mason Volenski (106) with a 11-8 decision over Colton Nash; Kholby Armco (144) pinned Taurin Zimpleman in 1:23; Alex Burgess (157) decisioned Nicholas Edgerton 14-3; Gunner Gale (175) pinned Braylon Gearhart in 3:28; Vincent Chavez pinned Ryan Lusk in 31 seconds.

Mattawan wrestlers defeat South Haven

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan wrestlers beat South Haven 64-16 at the Zach Ford Memorial duals on Saturday.

For Mattawan, Jake Northrop (138) defeated Lex Specchio on a pin in 3:58; Zack Miller (1440 was pinned in 2:29 by Zayden Rowland; George Dandindis (150) decisioned Mikey Yelding 14-2; Cohen Lopez (157) pinned Colt Olney in 1:35; Gage Love (165) pinned Ciro Haqq in 1:42: Connor Taylor (175) pinned Gabriel Saucedo in 28 seconds; Gio Santos (190) pinned Brayden Rowland in 2:47; Aidan Robinson (215) pinned Kenan Harris in 42 seconds;

Liam Garner (285) pinned Tyler Moorehouse in 3:39; Mattawan forfeited to Alex Bristol (106); Ben Williamson (113) pinned Carter Adamson in 21 seconds; Dylan Putman (120) and Brady DesRosiers (126) won by forfeits and Elyse Morales (132) lost 20-2 to Jose Garcia.

Mattawan also beat Harper Creek 42-36.

Winners for Mattawan were Zack Miller, George Dandindis, Cohen Lope, Ben Williamson, Dylan Putman and Brady DesRosiers

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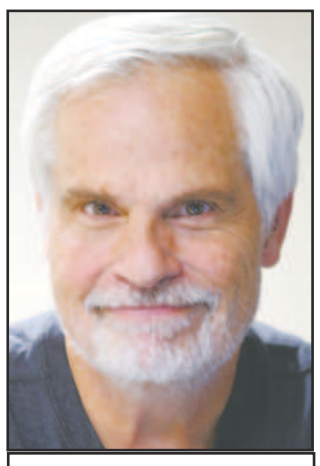
VIEWPOINT

Congress should not ban TikTok



MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

There has been a new push in Congress to out right ban or heavily regulate TikTok. I'm neither a user nor am I fan of social media in general. However, to ban or heavily regulate the most popular social media platform in our country, and do nothing to regulate its competitors, is Congress caving to the anti-China sentiment.

You see TikTok originated in China. It was started by a Chinese company called Byte Dance, that has many Chinese and U.S. investors- one of them being the Chinese government. Proponents of a ban claim personal information from TikTok users can be accumulated and used by the Chinese government against America and its citizens.

Sorry, but I don't buy that. Today's TikTok is U.S. based. Top officials, from the CEO on down, have nothing to do with China. It has thousands of investors, mostly U.S. citizens, that are making good money, because the app is very appealing to the masses.

Another reason legislators see the need to heavily regulate TikTok, is that in their view it poisons the minds of its millions of young users. Much like Instagram, it provides short video clips that sometimes can be political in nature. They claim Hamas, Isis and other radical groups utilize TikTok to recruit and influence young audiences.

Couldn't the same, however, be said, about the aforementioned Instagram and Facebook and X and on and on. If we are going to regulate one social media company, then we should regulate them all. That, in this writer's opinion, however, would definitely abuse first amendment rights that we all are afforded in our Constitution.

One of the more sensible member in Congress, send Rand Paul, has brought up to more interesting reasons a TikTok ban, or heavy regulations makes no sense. He says"

"TikTok is banned in China," Paul said. "We're thinking – or people who want to ban it are thinking – Wow, we're going to really defeat the Chinese communists, by becoming Chinese authoritarians and banning it in our country? TikTok is banned in China. So, we're going to emulate the Chinese communists by banning it in our country?"

And then he sensibly makes the argument that a ban or regulation would harm American investors. He adds,

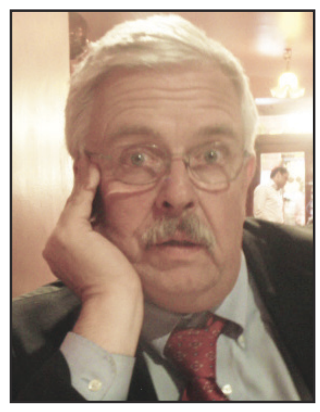
"We know that the Chinese government does demand things, but we don't know that any information really is going from TikTok to any of these people in China," he said, noting that a provable crime is necessary to take property from Americans.

Just a side note, there are thousands of American investors. They would take a bath financially if TikTok were to be banned or heavily regulated.

Rather than Congress passing more regulatory laws- don't we have enough regulations on our lives- wouldn't it make more sense to encourage parents to regulate their children. It should be their responsibility to know and determine how much social media their children are watching and interacting with.

Parents ought to determine what is right and wrong for their children. Personally, I am tired of government attempting to make those decisions for us. Sure, TikTok can poison young minds if they are viewing inappropriate propaganda. But so can X, or Facebook. The key is parental regulation, not government.

Life as Performance Art



G CORWIN STOPPEL

What was once known as suicide has been renamed by some "Assisted dying." Both terms make me uncomfortable.

Western culture has long abhorred suicide. The ancient Romans considered it a serious offense against the person, their family and the empire. If an individual chose to take their own life, the government confiscated all their tangible assets, leaving their family nothing.

Some emperors picked one or more rich citizens and sent them a messenger warning they were about to be arrested for treason. They would be taken in chains to Rome, tried, convicted, all their assets would be confiscated and their families would be sold into slavery.

Option two: they could take their own life, the emperor will still seize all your wealth but your family can go free. It was not good either way.

Later, the church and government routinely took assets of those who committed suicide because self-murder was a serious offense self-murder. Since the persons could not confess their sins and be absolved after they died, they went to the grave as unrepentant sinners.

Attempted suicide is still illegal in many countries, but now some have sanctioned it. But it is carefully regulated.

For example, in some states in this country, a person who is terminally ill with less than six months to live can, with support of his or her doctor, petition the state to be allowed an early exit.

But in other countries, notably Canada, a person can request assisted death for almost any reason. In 2024, a young woman was terribly depressed, saw no real future ahead of her, was very lonely and without friends. She had no physical ailments nor terminal illness and the government granted her request.

We find ourselves caught in the middle of diametrically opposite moral imperatives. On one hand, suicide or assisted death is the taking of human life; on the other, we do not want to see people suffer. One involves reverence for life; the other is a concern for economics under the guise of ending pain.

We have a long tradition of reverence for all life, regardless of its quality. Opposing it is our belief in personal autonomy. We should make our own decisions in what we believe is best for us. If I believe that because of medical or other conditions I cannot live in dignity, then I have the right to bring my life to an end.

As Seneca, the Roman stoic philosopher said, "It makes a great deal of difference whether a man is lengthening his life or lengthening his death."

A strong argument for assisted death for those suffering from an irrevocable illness is that it spares them and loved ones a lot of pain. It also helps protect the assets that might be passed on to family rather than the medical profession.

The rationale is "we would never make our pet l suffer, so why insist a that human suffer?"

This may appear humane, but there is potential to slip into the dark side. Instead of being allowed to have an assisted death, the decision might be made for us by loved one or the government.

That's what happened when the Bavarian Corp. Hitler ran Germany in the 1930s. Children whose mental capacity was severely diminished and required round-the-clock care were euthanized by the government. Those who suffered from serious mental or physical illnesses suffered the same fate.

It could happen again, maybe this time with variations. Someone of advanced age, unable to work or contribute to society might one day be wheeled out of their home or a care facility, never to return. Or for any other reason a government deemed appropriate.

Do we want to live in a society where relief from pain, for some predetermined reason, leads to an expectation of euthanasia? To quote Charles Dickens, society's goal is to "decrease the surplus population" based primarily on economics. Might we get to a point where enforced assisted death becomes public policy because it is expedient?

There is a porous wall between mandated life regardless of medical circumstances, and a policy of assisted death. We will be hard pressed to find one size that fits all answers.

A century and a half ago people often died from appendicitis. Then surgeons began removing the offending organ and most patients lived.

A century ago, before penicillin, pneumonia was often called "the old man's friend" because it shortened the life of many elderly patients.

Seventy-plus years ago royal English physicians, knowing King George was near the end, hastened things along with a little extra morphine so his passing could be announced in the Times rather than the "low-class" tabloids.

To some extent we are victims of our own success. Medicine has moved from the most physicians being general or family practitioners to an ever-growing battalion of specialists.

More than 100 ago, Dr. Will Mayo warned of over-relying on specialists at the cost of wisdom and experience. The older generation of doctors, who knew their patients, approached final stages of a terminal illness and life with great caution and gentleness.

It may not have been a perfect system, but it beats turning herds of politicians and insurance lobbyists loose on this sticky moral question.

It means that churches, advocates for those with serious illnesses, mental and/or physical challenges and those of advanced age have their work cut out for them.

We either make our voices heard or we will hear voices of others, and we may not like what they say.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop deforestation of state land

Dear Editor,

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plans to clear 420 acres of state forest near Gaylord to lease the area for solar development, selling out sportsmen/women for a project officials acknowledge could increase the state's carbon footprint. Scott Whitcomb, the DNR's director of public lands, confirmed the department will soon solicit bids to lease 420 acres in Otsego County's Hayes Township for solar development following an analysis of 1,200 acres near a major power transmission line and adjacent 200-megawatt solar farm on private land.

The decision, he said, is part of a broader plan to lease 4,000 acres of public land across the state to address two pressing issues: dwindling DNR revenues from hunting and fishing license sales, and Democrats' goal of forcing 100% "clean energy" by 2040. Whitcomb acknowledged that the Michigan Healthy Climate Plan, approved by Democrats and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2023, directs officials to "avoid land-use conversion that causes a net increase in emissions and prioritize land uses that reduce emissions."

Research from Harvard University and The Massachusetts Audubon Society highlights how clear-cutting forest land for solar development results in a net increase in carbon by eliminating the only feasible means of removing the element from the atmosphere. The clear-cutting approach also devastates wildlife by fragmenting habitat, impacting biodiversity and climate resilience.

This deforestation will destroy habitats and effectively kill wildlife. Let me make that clear, Whitmer and the DNR are choosing to kill wildlife so they can develop solar fields.

The vast majority of public land in Michigan was purchased with revenues from the state's hunters and anglers, with use restrictions that are supposed to prioritize their interests and wildlife management. The Whitmer administration and the DNR specifically are tasked with protecting our natural resources, instead of initiating this questionably legal scheme.

Many in Michigan on both sides of the aisle are questioning whether the DNR even has the legal or administrative authority to lease public land for private use. Just as the state rightfully holds citizens accountable for their unethical conservation actions – likewise, people are demanding accountability from the Michigan government for their unethical conservation management practices."

With thousands of acres of brownfield properties, thousands of miles of abandoned railroad bed and additional optional sites, it is inexcusable to even consider the use of forest lands or agricultural property for Whitmer's Green Initiative. Once into solar fields these properties will never be reclaimed to their original condition.

Rural areas were always going to bear the brunt of this government overreach, even when a lot of rural areas don't want these projects and their elected officials voted against such programs. What good is so-called green energy when we're cutting down thousands of acres of trees and destroying our agricultural resources to create the infrastructure to support it?"

John R. Young
Hamilton Township

Millionaires need to pay their fair share

Editor,

While I share our editor's concern that adding to our national debt is increasingly unsustainable I can't say that I share the irrational exuberance that he and others place on the quixotically called "Department of Government Efficiency" headed by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy.

If a recent editorial in the Allegan County News is any indication most of the instances of "waste" cited was penny ante stuff that was snuck onto more important legislation by local congressmen answering to the more parochial concerns of their constituents and without legislative powers what does anyone think will come of DOGE recommendations.

The biggest item cited was aid to Ukraine to support it's war against unprovoked Russian aggression which I think is justifiable because not only have our national interests never aligned with Russia but also because of the botch they made of their invasion they've had to seek help from both China and North Korea which keeps both of them off balance all of which is to our advantage. Money well spent as we are not Ukraine's sole supporting ally.

The real problem with solving our national debt is the current focus on solving it solely through cuts to services that will mostly negatively impact the middle class (us) while ignoring increasing revenue through raising the top tax bracket which is currently at 37% to 90% which it was in the 1950's.

Does Trump and Musk want to "Make America Great Again"? Let them step up to pay their fair share. Same for the health insurance guy who was making 10 million dollars a year before coming to an untimely end on a New York street. Brian Niccol, CEO of Starbuck's, is set to make 23 million dollars in 2025 while his baristas can't afford housing. Have we forgotten Warren Buffet's pointing out that under the current tax codes his secretary pays more in taxes than he does?

Want to save Social Security? Why should those who make over $400,000 a year not have to pay taxes on income above that amount?

Want to "Make America Great Again"? Wake up!

David Ohmart

National debt result of Trump tax cuts

Dear Editor,

In this week's newspaper, Mike Wilcox suggests that he apparently agrees with DOGE, that government spending needs to be curbed. I think most people, including me, would agree with that statement, but the devil is in the details. I remember reading once that a Southern politician one stated that there a number of services people want, but when it comes to paying for them, they seemed to say, "don't tax me, but tax that man behind the tree." He goes on to state that many businesses received pandemic funding, but he couldn't get more for his business. I feel sorry for you, but why do you think you are special? I could be wrong, but I remember reading that a number of politicians received funds for their businesses. Perhaps you have a young newspaper intern who would like to check out Charles Grassley and Marjory Taylor Green to see if their businesses received pandemic funds while they served in Congress.

Mike, you go on to criticize giving money to Ukraine to the tune of $174 billion in military aid plus an additional $4.8 million to them. You are old enough to remember when the United States, United Kingdom and Russia agreed to protect Ukraine if they gave up their nuclear arms so they would not fall into the arms of terrorists. If the United States turns it back on the treaty, why should any country trust the United States on anything in the future. At the same time, you don't seem to care that the United States has given $158 billion to Israel since 1948, plus an additional $3.8 million dollars this year, none of which has to be paid back. Don't you think this has contributed to our enormous deficit? Do you agree that our senior citizen's should have their social security and Medicare cut to reduce the deficit? Do you know that citizens of Israel are entitled to Universal Health Care? How about our citizens receiving Universal Health care?

Finally, you stated that "the biggest waste of money is the interest we are paying each year to support our national debt". I ask you how this wasn't the result of the enormous tax cuts given to the wealthy by Trump and the Republicans during his first term. By the way, they will get to keep their tax cuts after 2025 but the rest of us ordinary citizens will see a massive tax increase because our cuts were "limited" and will soon end.

Sincerely
Eric R. Erickson

THE COURIER LEADER
PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

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PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Michigan probate Court Van Buren
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
FILE NO. N/A
Estate of LORRAINE WILLIS, DECEASED
Date of Birth: August 2,1928
TO ALL CREDITORS:
Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Lorraine Willis, died September 11,2024 (9/11/2024).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Robin Oquendo, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
December 27,2024
Attorney:
Willis Law
Mariko C. Willis #P81915
491 W. South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 492-1040
Personal Representative
Robin Oquendo
711 Davis Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269)720-1153

State of Michigan probate Court Van Buren
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
FILE NO. 2024-1217-DE
JUDGE HON. SUSAN METZGER
Estate of DORIS J. KAISER, DECEASED
Date of Birth: see MC 97 attached
TO ALL CREDITORS:
Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Doris J. Kaiser, died November 9,2024 (11/09/2024).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Philip S. Kaiser, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
December 27,2024
Attorney:
Peter A. Taylor #P75940
1350 West Centre Avenue, Suite 200, Portage, MI 49024
(269) 388-6060
Personal Representative
Philip S. Kaiser
5714 Kenwood, Missouri City, TX 77459
(269) 806-5964

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
LIVING TRUST OF HAROLD F. BARBER AND MARY ALICE BARBER
DATED NOVEMBER 9, 2010
TO ALL CREDITORS:
Harold F. Barber, who lived at 625 Lakeview Road, Paw Paw, MI 49079, died on December 26, 2024. No estate has been filed with any probate court, and it is anticipated that no estate will be filed with any probate court, there being no assets requiring probate. Creditors of Harold F. Barber are notified that all claims against Harold F. Barber, or the Living Trust of Harold F. Barber and Mary Alice Barber Dated November 9, 2010, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Stephen Barber, Trustee of the Living Trust of Harold F. Barber and Mary Alice Barber Dated November 9, 2010, as amended, at 50810 Territorial Road, Decatur, MI 49045, or Attorney CHRISTOPHER N. MORAITIS, or both, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Dated: January 6, 2025
SCHUITMAKER LAW OFFICE, P.C.
Attorney CHRISTOPHER MORAITIS (P87052)
Attorney for Stephen Barber, Trustee
181 West Michigan Avenue, Ste 1
Post Office Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-3177

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT VAN BUREN COUNTY
Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-8225
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
File No. 2023-1107-DE
Estate of Robert W. White, Deceased
Date of birth: November 1, 1941
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert W. White, died August 30, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kurt White, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Notice is further given that the estate will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
Date: January 7, 2025
Kurt White
40 Back Street
Newfane, VT 05345
(802 380-0989
STEPHEN W. SMITH, P70723
Miller Johnson Schroeder, PLC
728 Pleasant Street, Suite 101
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-1000

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
SYNOPSIS
NOVEMBER 20, 2024
Almena Township Board meeting was held November 20, 2024 and called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Joe Leduc.
Roll call: John Wagner, Pat Denny-Diget, Kelly Redmond, Mark Roman, Tim Kloosterman and Joe Leduc. Absent Sandra Rickli (excused)
a. Agenda approved
b. Amended meeting minutes of October 16, 2024 approved
c. Disbursements approved in the amount of $124,047.18 for October 21, 2024 through November 20, 2024
d. County Commissioner report
e. Sheriff's Dept. and Paw Paw/Mattawan Fire Dept. Reports
f. Trestle Creek Assessment Roll Public Hearing
g. Motion to approve Trestle Creek Resolution 2024-14
h. Public comment offered
i. Reports by officers were presented
j. Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-07
k. Motion approved to table conversation on Vehicle Repair and Storage Ordinance
l. Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-08
m. Public comment offered
n. Meeting adjourned 7:53pm
Sandra Rickli, Clerk, Almena Township

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: DILLON SHELDON; ATTY: TEAM X; 1ST PUB: 1/9/2025; ATTY FILE #: 516165F02; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Dillon Sheldon, a married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: May 6, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 12, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $147,627.70
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Gobles, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot(s) 8, Block 7, VILLAGE OF GOBLEVILLE, NOW CITY OF GOBLES, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 19 of Plats, Page 634.
Common street address (if any): 108 Glover St, Gobles, MI 49055-9692
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1549575
(01-09)(01-30)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: BRIAN EVES; ATTY: HOLZMAN, RITTER & LEDUC, PLLC - HOLZMAN CORKERY, PLLC; 1ST PUB: 1/9/2025; ATTY FILE #: (N/A); INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Brian Eves, an unmarried man, ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated June 6, 2022, and recorded on June 10, 2022, in Liber 1739, on Page 459, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Fifty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars and 82/100 Dollars ($53,374.82) plus accrued interest at 9.000% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan @ 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Said premises are situated in the Township of Pine Grove, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 5, VILLAGE OF KENDALL, as recorded in Liber 19, Page 554 of Plats, Van Buren County Records. Commonly: 26853 County Road 288, Gobles MI 49055—Tax Id #80-15-065-004-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 9, 2025 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248) 352-4340
(01-09)(02-06)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: NATE MENCK; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 12/26/2024; ATTY FILE #: 24-015945; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Nate Menck, a single person, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for M&I Bank FSB, Mortgagee, dated July 8, 2005 and recorded July 25, 2005 in Liber 1442, Page 482 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association fka The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc., Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-RZ3, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Eight and 59/100 Dollars ($83,308.59). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 23, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Almena, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 16, TOWN 2 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST, DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE EAST SECTION LINE AT THE INTERSECTION OF WHISKEY RUN ROAD; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE CENTERLINE A DISTANCE OF 450 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO SAID ROAD, A DISTANCE OF 400 FEET; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY PARALLEL TO THE CENTERLINE OF WHISKEY RUN TO SAID EAST SECTION LINE; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID CENTERLINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
34201 Whiskey Run Road, Mattawan, Michigan 49071
The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: December 26, 2024
File No. 24-015945
Firm Name: Orlans PC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(12-26)(01-16)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Wayne R. Pothoff and Roberta J. Pothoff, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Date of Mortgage: July 1, 2022
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 15, 2022
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $339,965.09
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Unit 142, Silvergrass, a site condominium, according to the master deed recorded in Liber 1611, Page 233, Van Buren county record, and designated as Van Buren county subdivision plan no. 132, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in the above described master deed and amendments thereto and as disclosed by act 59 of the public acts of 1978, as amended.
Common street address (if any): 25441 Forest Ln, Mattawan, MI 49071-9671
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: December 19, 2024
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1548185
(12-19)(01-09)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Wade Waldrup, single man, whose address is 58927 Norton Street, Mattawan, Michigan 49071, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, being a mortgage dated July 13, 2023, and recorded on July 25, 2023 in Liber 1755 Page 169, Van Buren County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated December 3, 2024 and recorded on December 6, 2024 in Liber 1772 Page 902, Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of THREE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO AND 86/100 DOLLARS ($318,832.86). Said premises are situated in the Village of Mattawan, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: UNIT 34, CONCORD FARMS, A SITE CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED RECORDED IN LIBER 1744, PAGE 586 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS, AND DESIGNATED AS VAN BUREN COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 146, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE DESCRIBED MASTER DEED AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AND AS DISCLOSED BY ACT 59 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978, AS AMENDED. Street Address: 58927 Norton Street, Mattawan, Michigan 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: December 19, 2024 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson, Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 24 6129
(12-19)(01-09)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: SHANNAN MESSERSMITH; ATTY: SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C. - SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, PC; 1ST PUB: 12/19/2024; ATTY FILE #: 24-002759-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Shannan Messersmith and Spencer Messersmith, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: October 6, 2023 Recorded on October 13, 2023, Liber 1758, on Page 183, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Union Home Mortgage Corp. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Three and 82/100 Dollars ($182,593.82) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3 in Block 1 in Hilliard`s Addition to the Village (now City) of Hartford, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 25 of Plats, Page 320, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 120 Hillsborough St, Hartford, MI 49057 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Union Home Mortgage Corp. Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1548414
(12-19)(01-09)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: FELICIA A FRENCH; ATTY: TEAM H; 1ST PUB: 1/9/2025; ATTY FILE #: 499077F05; INSURER: (UNKNOWN NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Felicia A. French, an unmarried woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center, LLC
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: July 3, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 6, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $108,424.56
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning on the North and South 1/4 line of Section 1, Town 4 South, Range 14 West, at a point South 00 degrees 06 minutes 45 seconds East 1232.55 feet from the North 1/4 post of said Section 1; and running thence South 00 degrees 06 minutes 45 seconds along said 1/4 line, 261.36 feet; thence East, parallel with the North line of said Section 1, 500 feet; thence North 00 degrees 06 minutes 45 seconds West 261.36 feet; thence West 500 feet to the point of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 72999 County Road 665, Lawton, MI 49065-9421
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1549520
(01-09)(01-30)

Graves placed four state events for South Haven

Sofia Grieves went to the state meet in four events this season.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Sofia Grieves' swimming season for South Havens was quite a successful one.

Grieves led her team to its 19th place finish at the state meet. She was a sophomore and was in the 100 butterfly, the medley relay, the 200 freestyle relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

She competed in those at the state meet and finished 16th the 200 medley relay, 24th in the 200 free relay, eighth in the 100 butterfly and 14th in the 400 freestyle relay.

"This year I was able to drop two seconds in my 100 fly and win conference," she said. "In the 400 free relay I was able to swim with my close teammates and we all dropped times.

"I think my best event was the 100 fly. The key was keeping my head into it because, if you shut it out mentally it messes with your race physically."

It was her second varsity season. "I saw lots of improvement not just physically but also mentally," Grieves said. "I definitely think I exceeded my expectations for the year."

She said the 200 IM was her second best event.

The team, "I feel had one of the most successful seasons we've had in awhile," Grieves said. "We had a lot of team camaraderie. Everyone was able to see results from the work we put in."

Grieves also plays basketball and softball. She plays JV and varsity basketball.

"I play the 4 position (post) mostly," she said, adding her strengths are "defense and rebounding."

Bloomingdale Township
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take note that Bloomingdale Township Board will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 @ 6:00pm.,
At the Bloomingdale Municipal Center, 109 E. Kalamazoo Street, Bloomingdale Michigan.
The intent of the Public Hearing is to discuss Changes to the Short-Term Rental Ordinance

Melanie Kelly
Township of Bloomingdale Clerk

2025 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE VILLAGE COUNCIL

All meetings will be held at the **Paw Paw District Library**, 609 W. Michigan Ave, Paw Paw MI 49079 and will commence at **7:00p.m.** unless otherwise published. All meetings shall be held in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 267 of 1976

January 13, 2025 January 27, 2025	July 14, 2025 July 28, 2025
February 10, 2025 February 24, 2025	August 11, 2025 August 25, 2025
March 10, 2025 March 24, 2025	September 8, 2025 September 22, 2025
April 14, 2025 April 28, 2025	October 13, 2025 October 27, 2025
May 12, 2025 May 27, 2025 (Tuesday Due to Memorial Day)	November 10, 2025 November 24, 2025
June 09, 2025 June 23, 2025	December 18, 2025

The Village of Paw Paw will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days' notice to the Village. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Village Clerk.

A period for public comment will be available at each meeting or written comment may be provided to the Village Offices prior to the meeting. Additional information is available at the Paw Paw Village Hall, 111 E. Michigan Ave between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or by sending a written request to PO Box 179, Paw Paw, MI 49079 or by calling 269-657-3148.

CLASSIFIEDS

• WANTED •

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER.
Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

SNOWPLOWING- Residential and Commercial. Free Estimates. Servicing Paw Paw, Lawton and Decatur areas. Text or call Pat, 269-998-4520.

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Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

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• FOR SALE •

98 year old lady would like to sell her car. **2015 SUBARU CROSSTREK,** orange, excellent condition, $13,000. 616-607-9276.

LOST WEDDING RING WITH SUBSTANTIAL REWARD

Lost wedding ring possibly at Mattawan Senior Center Front St parking lot or by grass edge. Could have also been lost in Paw Paw area. Gold band with diamond in center with rows of baguettes alongside of diamond.
Contact or text 269-370-8251. Show ad to your contacts.

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Berrien County Cancer Service
We pick up after yard sale items that you don't want or sell and we pick up items from cleanups from garages, basements and houses. We don't take mattresses, furniture, recliners, shoes or books.
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Ask for Kevin.
Every year we have a yard sale and all proceeds go to Berrien County Cancer Services.

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